UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/87
S/22243
19 February 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
LAW OF THE SEA
STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 19 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention an excerpt of a speech delivered by the President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Turgut Ozal, on Friday, 15 February 1991, who, addressing the students of the Turkish War Academy, is quoted as having said:

> "If today Greece is not extending its six miles, it is because of our navy, our ground forces and our F-16s that it cannot do so. It should fear even more and not create any problems in the future." (Turkish Daily News, 17 February 1991)

This latest statement by the President of the Turkish Republic, against which the Government of Greece strongly protests, as well as previous ones containing blunt threats against Greek islands, such as the recent statement by President Ozal to members of the European Parliament that Turkey will seize a number of Greek islands in case Greece should extend the limits of her territorial waters, constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly of its Article 2, paragraph 4, forbidding not only the use of force, but also the simple threat of resorting to it against the territorial integrity of any State.

The policy of such naked threats of use of military force practised by Turkey against the territorial integrity of my country, a Member State of the United Nations, can in no way affect Greece's right to extend its territorial waters as provided by international law, a right it will exercise whenever it should decide to do so.



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I would be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Law of the Sea" and "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Antonios EXARCHOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Greece
to the United Nations

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